

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306616

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LINES 3 AND 8 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROPOSING
TO SEND TRIAL OBSERVERS TO PARAGUAY

1. ROBERTA COHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, HAS NOTIFIED THE DEPARTMENT THAT TWO PARAGUAYAN DISCIPLES OF CHRIST PREVIOUSLY RELEASED FROM DETENTION HAVE BEEN REARRESTED. THESE ARE CRISTOBAL ORTIZ AND JOSE GIL OJEDA. ADDITIONALLY, NAMES OF TWO DISCIPLES PREVIOUSLY RELEASED HAVE APPEARED ON LIST OF PRISONERS TO BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. THESE LATTER TWO ARE RAMON JIMENEZ AND BASILICA ESPINOLA.

2. MS COHEN, ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AND THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, HAS ASKED IF THE EMBASSY WOULD CONSIDER SENDING AN OBSERVER TO THE TRIAL OF THE ABOVE
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INDIVIDUALS. SHE NOTED THAT THERE IS PRECEDENCE FOR THIS, AS IN THE CASE OF THE SOVIET UNION WHERE AN EMBASSY OBSERVER ATTENDED THE 1976 TRIAL OF ANDREI TVERDOKHLEBOV, FOUNDER OF THE RUSSIAN LEAGUE AFFILIATE. (FYI. L/HR) ADVISES THAT U.S. EMBASSIES HAVE HAD OFFICERS AT TRIALS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES. THE OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRIAL OBSERVERS ARE CONTAINED IN STATE 182813 OF AUGUST 2, 1975. END FYI.)

3. MS. COHEN FURTHER ADVISES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE WOULD LIKE TO SEND TRIAL OBSERVERS, BUT IS UNSURE WHETHER PARAGUAY WILL PERMIT IT. SHE IS UNDECIDED ON WHAT COURSE OF ACTION TO FOLLOW - WHETHER THE LEAGUE SHOULD NOTIFY THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT IN WRITING BEFOREHAND, OR APPEAR AT THE TRIAL UNANNOUNCED. THE LEAGUE OBSERVERS WOULD BE EITHER TWO SPANISH SPEAKING LAWYERS, OR ONE LAWYER AND ONE JUDGE. IN THE CASE OF THE STEPHANSKY/ALEXANDER MISSION TO PARAGUAY IN JULY 1976, STEPHANSKY VISITED THE PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO HIS TRIP.

4. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE INFORMATION ON WHEN THE TRIALS INVOLVING THE TWO DISCIPLES OF CHRIST ARE EXPECTED TO BE HELD. MS COHEN REQUESTED GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FROM THE EMBASSY ON THIS MATTER, BUT DOES NOT WANT THE EMBASSY TO INFORM THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT OF ITS PLANS.

5. THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS CONCERNING WHAT REACTION THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE MAY EXPECT FROM THE GOP TO THE APPEARANCE OF SUCH TRIAL OBSERVERS, AND ADVICE IT MAY WISH TO OFFER, SHOULD BE CABLED TO THE COUNTRY DESK OFFICER FOR TRANSMITTAL TO MS. COHEN.
KISSINGER.
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